MAP DIVISION

OFFICE PROCEDURE

Research and Analysis Branch
Office of Strategic Services

Number: 13
Effective: 3/27/43
File: 2C

Subject: Map Reliability Code.

Members of the Cartography Section are hereby directed to put into effect the provisions of the Map Reliability Code attached hereto:

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
BRANCH OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS
MAP DIVISION
EVALUATION OF RELIABILITY OF OSS MAPS

The reliability of the data appearing on OSS maps is judged as critically as possible at the time the map is constructed. The judgment is indicated on each map by a code of five symbols.

The first two sections of the code are composed of the following symbols:

1. Reliable
2. Generally reliable
3. Unreliable

A. Complete
B. Incomplete

These symbols are used in two pairs; e.g., 1A–2B. *The first pair* estimates the reliability of the source material used for the map's *quantitative data*—the data which are measurable, such as economic or population statistics, hypsometric data, the width of roads, the gauges of railroads, etc. *The second pair* of symbols estimates the reliability of the source material used for the map's *qualitative data*—the data which shows the types of road surfaces, the character of beaches, the types of terrain, etc.

The third section of the code refers to the reliability of the *locational data*, within the limits of scale and width of line. This degree of reliability is indicated by the numerals:

1. Accurate
2. Not entirely accurate
3. Only approximately accurate

Thus the entire Reliability Code might appear like this:
Reliability Code: 1A–2B–2

This code appears (usually below the scale) on all OSS maps numbered 2250 and upward. Earlier maps, when revised, will also carry the code.

15 March 1943

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All maps produced by the Cartography Section shall
bear the Reliability Code, except such maps as are
individually or collectively exempted by the Chief
of the Cartography Section or his delegate. Maps exempt
from the provisions of the Reliability Code shall bear
a notation to this effect near the bottom of the cover
sheet.

The responsibility for applying the Reliability Code
rests with the Cartographer who is responsible for
compilation. He shall evaluate the data in conference
with the requester or other qualified checker at such
time as the map is being finally checked. The use of the
Reliability Code has been officially approved, and any
difficulty or major difference of opinion between the
Cartographer and requester should be referred to the
Chief of the Compilation Unit, or to the Chief of the
Cartography Section. The Reliability Code for a map
having been determined, the map should be returned to the
Construction Unit for this addition to the legend before
the final checking by the Chief of the Compilation Unit,
or the Chief of the Cartography Section.

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Chief, Cartography Section

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Chief, Map Division